

## **SPECTACULAR SILENT LIGHT BRINGS LIGHT INTO THE LIVES OF MANY IN EDINBURGH BY GENERATING FUNDS FOR ONECITY TRUST.**

- The mission of the OneCity Trust is to fight inequality and exclusion in the City of Edinburgh.
- Edinburgh's Christmas's spectacular Silent Light donates 50p from every ticket towards the work of OneCity Trust.
- Silent Light donations reached £10,000 so far, an amount Edinburgh's Christmas hopes to double by the end of the run.
- Your ticket makes a difference supporting a range of projects across education, social welfare, human rights, inequalities and poverty.

The mission of the **OneCity Trust is to fight inequality and exclusion in the City of Edinburgh**. Established in 2003 in response to the OneCity report of the Lord Provost's Commission on Social Exclusion, the Trust uses the idea of a 'community foundation' to give people and organisations a means to reach across the divides of the city and support those who are excluded from the community.

Recent studies have shown that Edinburgh is a wealthy city, with incomes 9% higher than the national average. However, this wealth is not shared with all in the city, as 22% of all Edinburgh households are living in relative income poverty.

Although homelessness is falling in Edinburgh, we have the highest homelessness application rate of all large urban Scottish local authorities.

People living in the most deprived areas of Edinburgh are twice as likely to die before 75 from heart disease when compared to the Edinburgh average.

**The Trust fulfils its mission by initiating and funding projects in many areas, including education, social welfare, human rights, inequalities and poverty.**

Its priorities are to support projects which actively bring people together from across divides, have long-term social inclusion benefits, are low-cost but high-impact, add value to existing initiatives, provide a rapid response to problems recently identified or offer innovative and collaborative methods for addressing social exclusion.

Underbelly through Edinburgh's Christmas has chosen to support OneCity Trust because it is a simple and effective way to make a positive impact on local communities now and in the future.

Some of the projects in the City which OneCity Trust has funded include Edinburgh Tool Library, Fern's Kitchen Catering, Fetlor Youth Club, Community One Stop Shop, Craigmillar Literacy Trust, Milan SWC, SABS, Big Hearts Trust, to name but a few.

In 2016/17, £107,941 was paid in grants to 26 projects in the city. In 2017/18, £74,352 was paid in grants to 21 projects and the forecast available fund at the end of 2018/19 for distribution is projected to be in the region of £199,250, estimated to help approximately 40 projects in Edinburgh.

In the past £5,000 has supported Edinburgh Tool Library to pay for staff costs and workshop rental to increase the area for tool lending, working with disadvantaged groups, e.g. people at

risk of homelessness, mental health and substance abuse in the Piershill and Cragmillar areas but hopes to continue extending the service across the city.

£6,260 has supported Ferns Kitchen Catering with expenses and equipment for a flagship cafe in Balfour House which supports older people and their families, along with those with learning disabilities and those with barriers to employment.

And £10,000 has supported Community One Stop Shop by giving it the funding required to continue the 'out of office hours' service for advice and food bank services, on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings by the advice/admin worker.

In a global first, Underbelly has invited the team behind the Fringe 2018 hit, **Silent Adventures**, to collaborate with Edinburgh's Christmas on a unique outdoor event for people of all ages to enjoy. Fusing the stunning hit of Edinburgh's Christmas 2016, **Street of Light** with a silent street party, *Silent Light* was born: a festivity like no other, with people dancing and singing underneath a spectacular architectural installation of archways festooned with thousands of lightbulbs synchronised to music!

Getting everyone's Christmas groove on thanks to a rich playlist of first-class tunes, *Silent Light* is perfect Christmas entertainment. With 3 different themes to choose from (*Santa's Sparkles*, especially suitable for families, *Christmas Crackers* with all your favourite festive tunes and *Disco Delights* for the party crowd), *Silent Light* takes place up to 5 times a day between 4.45pm and 10pm, each slot 20 minutes long.

**50p from every ticket goes to support One City Trust.** 26,000 free tickets are also being made available to over 50 charities working in Edinburgh to give to local people, especially those who are at risk of exclusion or deprivation. With £10,000 raised so far through Silent Light donations, Edinburgh's Christmas teams hopes to double the figure by the end of the run.

*Silent Light* is supported by Essential Edinburgh, The Principal Edinburgh Charlotte Square and Signature Pub Group.

/ENDS

**Tickets for Silent Light and all ticketed events are available from:**

[www.edinburghschristmas.com](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com) / 0844 545 8252

**For further information on Edinburgh's Christmas, please contact:**

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### **Edinburgh's Christmas**

Edinburgh's Christmas is one of the most popular Christmas celebrations in the UK. 2018 will see the biggest, brightest and best programme of events and entertainment to date. This year the refreshed celebration expands across the city from East to West, North to South and into community hubs outside the city centre. A new feature, **Silent Light** fuses the 2016 hit *Street of Light* with a silent street party in a unique event for people of all ages which sees audiences singing and dancing underneath the beautiful architectural structure festooned with 60,000 lightbulbs, synchronised with music! **La Clique Noël** makes a welcome come back to Festival Square Spiegel tent with a brand-new show – **Part Deux** – featuring, among others, aerialist Stephen Williams famous for his bath act, sword-

swallower and fire-breather Heather Holliday, internationally-known model and pin-up star Mosh and Fancy Chance, hanging by her hair...

Visit [www.edinburghschristmas.co.uk](http://www.edinburghschristmas.co.uk) to browse the full programme and book your tickets.

Edinburgh's Christmas images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iuf0408xz9m7v9j/AABjSwazcXeL-g5u18Ez4afda?dl=0>

### **About Underbelly**

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company the beginnings of which are rooted in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2000. Its events and festivals division now operates one of the largest operations at the Fringe, selling over 460,000 tickets for over 200 shows in 22 venues over 25 days in 2018.

2018 is the sixth Edinburgh's Christmas that Underbelly has produced for City of Edinburgh Council (2017/18 saw a record breaking 781,520 tickets issued to visitors from 47 different countries), and the second Edinburgh's Hogmanay also on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, which in 2017-18 welcomed 160,000 over 3 days.

Elsewhere Underbelly also produces Underbelly Festival on the Southbank in London, this year in its 10th year and one of the biggest multi-arts offerings in London, Christmas in Leicester Square, Underbelly Festival in Hong Kong, West End Live in Trafalgar Square for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre.

Through its Underbelly Productions arm it produces and promotes live shows in London's West End at the Edinburgh Fringe, and throughout the UK and on tour internationally.

In 2017 Underbelly sold over 1.4 million tickets to its various events.

[www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk)